

BOROUGH OF LEOMINSTER

Herefordshire

Joint

A N N U A L R E P O R T

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and of the

Public Health Inspector

for the year 1967

MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

(As at 31st December 1967)

THE MAYOR (Office Vacant)

* THE DEPUTY MAYOR, Councillor G.G. POWELL

Aldermen:

F.H. DALE, J.P.

* N. DAVIS

D.R. JONES

* Mrs. P.P. PEATT, J.P.

Councillors:

* F. BARBER, J.P. (Chairman of the Housing & Public
Health Committee)

* A.E. BENGRI

* J.H. BLANCHARD, M.R.C.V.S., D.V.S.M. (Vict.)

S.R. BOOTH, B.Sc., J.P.

* Mrs. E.R. BROWN

* R.B. BURKE

* G.W. NORMAN

H.E. POWELL

* F.W. WOODWARD

D.J. WRIGHT

* Members of the Housing & Public Health Committee

Town Clerk and Chief Financial Officer

.. K. DOWNS

Borough Surveyor

.. H. SCHOFIELD

Medical Officer of Health:

G.D.K. NEEDHAM, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P, D.P.H.,

Westfield Walk,

LEOMINSTER.

(Telephone: Leominster 2049)

Public Health Inspector:

A. STUART SMITH, M.A.P.H.I., Cert. Meat and Other Foods,
(Retired 31.3.68)

R.L. PUGH, M.A.P.H.I.,
(From 1.3.68)

Grange Court,

LEOMINSTER.

(Telephone: Leominster 2257)

Clerk to the Medical Officer of Health: C.A. PREECE

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Members of the Leominster
Borough Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my Annual Report for the year 1967, together with the report of the Public Health Inspector.

I am very glad to be able to put on record my personal thanks to our retiring Public Health Inspector, Mr. Stuart Smith, for his help to me and his services to the public throughout the period of his office. He has always put the public good in the first place in his work, and I am sure every one who knows him has been able to appreciate that this is so.

I hope all members of the Council will read his final report carefully, and I would once again like to support his plea that the forthcoming housing estate at Barons Cross be used as a pilot scheme for refuse collection in paper sacks.

Several local authorities in Herefordshire are now running or intend to run such schemes and it would be a pity if Leominster failed to move with the times. For cleanliness, convenience and labour saving, there is no doubt of the superiority of such a method.

I am happy to welcome Mr. R.L. Pugh as Mr. Smith's successor and I am sure he will be as successful as his predecessor.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM

Medical Officer of Health



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STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

| | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----------|
| Area (in acres) | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 8,728 |
| Estimated mid-year home population | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6,930 |
| Average number of persons per acre | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.8 |
| Number of inhabited houses | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2,385 |
| Average number of inhabited houses per acre | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 0.27 |
| Average number of persons per house | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 3.0 |
| Rateable Value | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £235,711 |
| Sum represented by a Penny Rate | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | £950 |

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHSLive Births

| | Males | Females | Total |
|--------------|----------|----------|-----------|
| Legitimate | 59 | 48 | 107 |
| Illegitimate | 4 | 1 | 5 |
| | <hr/> 63 | <hr/> 49 | <hr/> 112 |

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Comparability factor: 1.07 | 1967 | 1966 | 1965 | 1964 | 1963 |
| Leominster Borough (Crude) | 16.2 | 16.5 | 18.4 | 20.8 | 15.3 |
| " " (Adjusted) | 17.3 | 17.7 | 19.7 | 22.3 | 16.4 |
| England and Wales | 17.2 | 17.7 | 18.0 | 18.4 | 18.2 |

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

| | | |
|--------------------|----|-----|
| Leominster Borough | .. | 4.5 |
| England and Wales | .. | * |

Still Births

| | Males | Females | Total |
|--------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Legitimate | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Illegitimate | - | 1 | 1 |

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1967 | 1966 | 1965 | 1964 | 1963 |
| Leominster Borough | 34.5 | 8.7 | Nil | 13.9 | 9.9 |
| England and Wales | 14.8 | 15.4 | 15.8 | 16.3 | 17.2 |

*figure not yet available

INFANT DEATH RATESEarly Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 week old

| | Males | Females | Total |
|--------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Legitimate | - | - | - |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

| | | |
|--------------------|----|------|
| Leominster Borough | .. | Nil |
| England and Wales | .. | 10.8 |

Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

| | Males | Females | Total |
|--------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Legitimate | 1 | - | 1 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

| | | |
|--------------------|----|------|
| Leominster Borough | .. | 8.9 |
| England and Wales | .. | 12.5 |

Perinatal MortalityStill Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

| | Males | Females | Total |
|--------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Legitimate | 1 | 2 | 3 |
| Illegitimate | - | 1 | 1 |

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

| | | |
|--------------------|----|------|
| Leominster Borough | .. | 34.5 |
| England and Wales | .. | 25.4 |

Infant MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 year of age

| | Males | Females | Total |
|--------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Legitimate | 2 | - | 2 |
| Illegitimate | - | - | - |

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

| | | 1967 | 1966 | 1965 | 1964 | 1963 |
|--------------------|---------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Leominster Borough | (Total | 18.0 | 26.3 | 7.9 | 22.1 | 10.0 |
| | (Legitimate | 18.7 | 28.0 | 8.5 | 22.7 | 10.5 |
| | (Illegitimate | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil | Nil |
| England & Wales | (Total | 18.3 | 19.0 | 19.0 | 19.9 | 21.1 |
| | (Legitimate | * | * | * | 19.4 | 20.8 |
| | (Illegitimate | * | * | * | 26.3 | 26.0 |

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

| | | |
|--------------------|----|-----|
| Leominster Borough | .. | Nil |
| England and Wales | .. | * |

DEATHS

| | Males | Females | Total |
|---|-------|---------|-------|
| Total number of deaths from all causes: | 47 | 40 | 87 |

Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Comparability factor: 0.72 | 1967 | 1966 | 1965 | 1964 | 1963 |
| Leominster Borough (Crude) | 12.6 | 14.3 | 14.4 | 12.0 | 15.3 |
| " " (Adjusted) | 9.1 | 9.9 | 11.5 | 9.5 | 12.0 |
| England and Wales | 11.2 | 11.7 | 11.5 | 11.3 | 12.2 |

Cancer

| | Males | Females | Total |
|--------------------------------------|-------|---------|-------|
| Total deaths from Malignant Disease: | 6 | 5 | 11 |

Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1967 | 1966 | 1965 | 1964 | 1963 |
| Leominster Borough | 1.58 | 1.59 | 3.47 | 1.46 | 2.75 |
| England and Wales | * | 2.25 | 2.23 | 2.20 | 2.17 |

Cardio-Vascular Disease

| | Males | Females | Total |
|--|-------|---------|-------|
| Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease: | 24 | 28 | 52 |

Cardio-Vascular Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

| | | | | | |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| | 1967 | 1966 | 1965 | 1964 | 1963 |
| Leominster Borough | 7.50 | 7.65 | 7.96 | 6.59 | 8.42 |
| England and Wales | * | 5.97 | 5.95 | 5.73 | 5.22 |

*figures not yet available

DEATHSRespiratory Disease (excluding Tuberculosis)

| | Males | Females | Total |
|--|-------|---------|-------|
| Total deaths from Respiratory Disease: | 9 | 2 | 11 |

Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

| | 1967 | 1966 | 1965 | 1964 | 1963 |
|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Leominster Borough | 1.59 | 2.16 | 1.74 | 1.61 | 2.30 |
| England and Wales | * | 1.60 | 1.41 | 1.37 | 1.71 |

*figure not yet available

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

| Disease | Males | Females | Total |
|--|-------|---------|-------|
| Infective and parasitic diseases | 1 | - | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, stomach | 1 | - | 1 |
| Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus | 2 | 2 | 4 |
| Malignant neoplasm, breast | - | 1 | 1 |
| Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms | 3 | 2 | 5 |
| Diabetes | - | 1 | 1 |
| Vascular lesions of nervous system | 1 | 6 | 7 |
| Coronary disease, angina | 13 | 8 | 21 |
| Other heart disease | 8 | 10 | 18 |
| Other circulatory disease | 2 | 4 | 6 |
| Pneumonia | 3 | 1 | 4 |
| Bronchitis | 6 | 1 | 7 |
| Congenital malformations | 2 | - | 2 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases | 3 | 4 | 7 |
| Accidents, other than motor vehicle | 2 | - | 2 |
| | 47 | 40 | 87 |

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASECOMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR PREVIOUS YEARSBorough of Leominster

| Disease | 1967 | 1966 | 1965 | 1964 | 1963 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Whooping Cough | 5 | 12 | 1 | 6 | - |
| Measles | 7 | 13 | 196 | 10 | 8 |
| Scarlet Fever | 1 | 9 | - | 1 | 1 |
| Erysipelas | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Acute Pneumonia | - | - | - | 3 | - |
| Dysentery | 138 | 45 | 1 | - | 1 |
| Food Poisoning | - | - | - | 1 | 2 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Tuberculosis: | | | | | |
| Pulmonary | - | 1 | 3 | 5 | 2 |
| Non-Pulmonary | - | - | 1 | 1 | - |

North Herefordshire

| | | | | | |
|-------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Whooping Cough | 47 | 37 | 5 | 70 | 29 |
| Measles | 314 | 271 | 525 | 609 | 507 |
| Scarlet Fever | 11 | 29 | 12 | 8 | 12 |
| Erysipelas | 2 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 3 |
| Acute Encephalitis: | | | | | |
| Infective | - | 2 | - | - | 2 |
| Post-Infectious | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Acute Pneumonia | 5 | 9 | 3 | 8 | 13 |
| Meningococcal Infection | 1 | - | - | - | - |
| Dysentery | 285 | 92 | 6 | 3 | 7 |
| Food Poisoning | 10 | 9 | 8 | 14 | 7 |
| Paratyphoid Fever | - | - | - | - | 2 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Tuberculosis: | | | | | |
| Pulmonary | 3 | 4 | 8 | 10 | 9 |
| Non-Pulmonary | 2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 1 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN THE BOROUGH OF LEOMINSTER DURING THE YEAR 1967

| Disease | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | TOTAL |
|----------------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| Measles | 1 | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 7 |
| Whooping Cough | - | - | - | - | 3 | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 5 |
| Scarlet Fever | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 |
| Dysentery | 78 | 44 | 16 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 138 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1967

| Disease | Jan. | Feb. | Mar. | Apr. | May | June | July | Aug. | Sept. | Oct. | Nov. | Dec. | TOTAL |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|-----|------|------|------|-------|------|------|------|-------|
| Whooping Cough | 8 | - | 4 | 5 | 2 | 1 | - | 1 | 5 | 2 | - | 19 | 47 |
| Measles | 74 | 41 | 48 | 27 | 81 | 20 | 17 | 1 | 1 | - | 1 | 3 | 314 |
| Scarlet Fever | - | - | 4 | 1 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 11 |
| Erysipelas | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | 2 |
| Acute Pneumonia | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | 1 | - | - | - | 5 |
| Meningococcal Infection | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 |
| Dysentery | 189 | 49 | 38 | - | 2 | - | 2 | 3 | 2 | - | - | - | 285 |
| Food Poisoning | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | 1 | 7 | - | - | - | - | 10 |
| Tuberculosis: | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Pulmonary | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | 3 |
| Non-Pulmonary | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 2 |

TUBERCULOSIS

| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
|--|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| | Males | Females | Males | Females |
| Number on Register at 31st December, 1966. | 31 | 14 | 1 | 3 |
| Recovered | 2 | 1 | - | - |
| Number on Register at 31st December, 1967. | 29 | 13 | 1 | 3 |

| Year | New Notifications | Total cases on Register | Deaths | Recoveries |
|------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------|------------|
| 1963 | 3 | 53 | - | - |
| 1964 | 5 | 59 | - | 1 |
| 1965 | 4 | 59 | - | 1 |
| 1966 | 1 | 49 | 4 | 8 |
| 1967 | - | 46 | - | 3 |

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (AMENDMENT) ACT, 1951

No action needed to be taken under this section during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION OF REPORT

INTRODUCTION

In compiling this Report, being the last Annual Report I shall have the opportunity of presenting prior to my retirement from office after 32 years of service, I feel I cannot allow the occasion to drift away without expressing my sincere thanks and appreciation to each and everyone within the Borough of Leominster with whom I have been concerned directly and indirectly, and to say that had I been privileged to have chosen a place wherein to apply my limited talents in the service of environmental health and mankind I could not have chosen more wisely than Leominster and its friendly, kindly, and courteous community.

ANNUAL REPORTS TO MEMBERS OF COUNCILS

Throughout the period of my office as Public Health Inspector it has been my policy to compile and complete this section of the Annual Report immediately at the close of each year. Consequently it is my considered opinion that Annual Reports which, in general throughout the country, only reach members of the councils many months - sometimes 9/12 months - after the end of each year to which the reports apply, lose significance in that much useful environmental information, statistics and comment, tend to lack due importance and beneficence.

WATER

Piped Supplies (Public Water Mains)

The supply of piped water to that portion of the Council's area which is provided with water mains is through the Herefordshire Water Board. The Herefordshire Water Board was constituted by Order of the Ministry of Housing and Local Government in 1959. Administration and control of the Council's Water Undertaking passed to the Board in April, 1960.

- (1) The piped water supply of the area and of its several parts has been fully satisfactory in quality and fully satisfactory in quantity.

(2) Bacteriological Examination

- (a) Water after chlorination - 36 samples taken
(All free of organisms of faecal origin)

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|----|----|----|
| Number of samples taken from taps at | | | | |
| consumers' premises | .. | .. | .. | 36 |

- (b) Number of samples of raw water taken
prior to chlorination Nil

- (3) No plumbo-solvent action - hard water.

- (4) Action taken in respect of any form of contamination - immediate re-sampling.

WATER (Continued)Piped Supplies (Public Water Mains) (Continued)

(5) Chemical examinations - Nil (Fluoride F. 0.26 p.p.m.)

(6) Approximate number of dwelling-houses, flats, etc., supplied from public water mains:-

| | | |
|-----------------------------------|----|-------|
| (a) Direct to houses, flats, etc. | .. | 2,238 |
| (b) By means of standpipes | .. | 3 |

Of 472 occupied houses in the Out-Parish, about 353 houses are supplied with piped chlorinated water.

The approximate number of houses relying on spring, borehole, or well, is as follows:-

| | | |
|------------|----|-----|
| Borough | .. | 2 |
| Out-Parish | .. | 119 |

Remarks

The following Out-Parish areas are not provided with mains piped water supplies:-

Brierley, Stagbatch, Aulden and Wintercott, Stretford and Hennor, Elms Green, Wharton, Ford Bridge and Marlbrook.

Water Samples taken and submitted for analysis

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| (a) Piped supplies (House taps or standpipes) | .. | 36 |
| (b) Wells, boreholes, springs and chambers | .. | 10 |
| (c) Open Air Swimming Bath | .. | 18 |

Note - (a) 36 samples satisfactory.
 (b) 5 samples unsatisfactory.
 (c) 18 samples satisfactory.

HARD WATER - PIPED SUPPLY - WHY ? AND FOR HOW LONG ?

The supply of water to domestic and industrial premises in Leominster has a total hardness value above 240 parts per million, and can be classified as "hard water". When used for domestic purposes it is not sensibly convenient in that it does not easily lather, is wasteful of soap, is scum and lime deposit forming, chokes up pipes, boilers, cylinders, circulators, kettles, etc., and at inopportune times gives rise to nuisances and costs.

A transformation into "soft" water would be a boon to each and everyone, and to each and every home, office, shop and industrial premises.

Why then should Leominster continue "HARD" ?

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

The Borough's first sewage disposal works was brought into operation during the year 1963.

- (1) The Council's area is only partially sewered, mainly for the following reason:-

Unsewered properties are economically incapable of being connected to a sewerage system.

- (2) 87% of the occupied properties in the Council's area are drained to the Council's sewerage system.
- (3) No sewage from other areas is received into the Council's sewers or direct into the Council's sewage disposal works.
- (4) The effluent from the sewage disposal works is discharged into the River Arrow. Storm water discharges to various water courses.
- (5) No parts of the Council's area are drained to sewers or sewage disposal works of another authority, joint board or committee.

Borough Proper - Drainage of old premises to the sewer is in the main poor, consisting usually of unjointed pipes devoid of inspection chambers or ventilation shafts.

Out-Parish - Houses, where no sewer available, are drained to septic tanks or other place.

Approximate number of occupied houses drained to sewer:-

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|-------|
| Borough Proper | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 1,870 |
| Out-Parish | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 177 |

Number of occupied houses not drained to sewer:-

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Borough Proper | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 20 |
| Out-Parish | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 295 |

Cesspool Emptying

The Council do not undertake to empty cesspools.

Approximate number of cesspools in area:-

| | | | | | | |
|----------------|----|----|----|----|----|-----|
| Borough Proper | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 17 |
| Out-Parish | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 228 |

TENTS AND CARAVANS

Camping does not exist on a large scale. No sites licensed.

REFUSE COLLECTION, REMOVAL, DISPOSAL AND TREATMENT

(1) Collection - Borough Proper - Vehicular collection
once per week.

Out-Parish - Vehicular collection weekly
or fortnightly according to
locality.

DUSTBINS renewed 66

(2) Disposal of Refuse Tipping.

(3) Treatment against rodents Periodic baiting.

The Council undertake collection of refuse from all reasonably accessible properties in the Council's area.

In my last Annual Report I devoted a full page to the above, particularly in regard to the merits of the paper sack system from the point of view of public health and hygiene, over the insanitary metal dustbin system; and I also implied as worthwhile from many points the embodiment of a pilot sack scheme in the future housing developments.

The Annual Report failed in its purpose in that consideration was not even given to a suggested pilot scheme, and this is specifically disappointing as the Council's approval had been given during the year 1967 to what is known as the Monkland Road Housing Scheme, involving the construction of over 140 houses, mainly Council house lettings, set in a lovely countryside known as the out-parish of Leominster, being an area divorced from the built-up area of the Borough proper, comprehensive in character and suitable to the establishment of a pilot sack system of refuse collection and storage, and the provision of actual costings and other factors.

Working Party Report on Refuse Collection and Storage

For the information of members of the Council I would add that a Working Party, appointed by the Government in May 1963, and whose REPORT on Refuse Collection and Disposal was published during the year 1967, is favourable to the PAPER SACK SYSTEM better in hygiene - better in labour saving - better in reliability of service - advantageous for holiday periods and bad weather conditions - better in emergencies - better under special situations such as refuse through houses and shops - reduction in noise, and so on.

The Working Party say "we have no doubt that for local authorities seeking the best existing system for house-to-house collection the choice now lies between paper sacks and the continental dustless loading system, and so far as we can see this is likely to be the position for some time to come".

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES, BODIES AND PARTS

In every ward of the Borough can be found, in unauthorised places, abandoned discarded worthless motor vehicles, the bodies in general having been stripped of engines and all saleable materials. In a small Borough such as Leominster it is apparent that the expense of moving and disposing of derelict vehicles or bodies poses a major problem and acts as a deterrent to needful remedy, yet surely the problem should not be allowed to spiral to a point which is detrimental to the amenities of the area and its persons without some tentative action being taken towards a "joint" solution.

HOUSING

The observations and statistics given relate to the position as at 31st December, 1967, being the date when this part of the report was compiled and completed, and should be read accordingly.

Developments in Housing

The Monkland Road Housing Scheme should, when finalised, eliminate the principal housing deficiencies shown to exist on the Council's Housing Waiting List, and at this point, in the absence of furtherance of the Council's "Overspill" Scheme, it might be wise to reflect on housing developments, and demand, in the private sector, and to control carefully the extent of the Council's future annual house building programme in relation to actual essential personal needs and the progress in industrial expansion, and by so doing avoid possible over-building, unbalancing of population, and an above average unemployment rate, ultimately.

Points which may be reviewed carefully are submitted as follows - and there are others:-

- (1) The extensive diminution on the Council's Housing Waiting List of actual necessitous cases appropriate to the Borough, and also to employment.
- (2) The diminished number of unfit houses requiring demolition and replacement.
- (3) The extent of incoming new families to the private section building.
- (4) The estimated population growth and housing requirements.
- (5) Capital costs of future council house developments and related economic rentals.
- (6) Avoidance of an unbalanced labour population such as excessive female employment and a diminutive male employment.
- (7) Avoidance of a stage of too many persons for too few jobs.

HOUSING (Continued)Developments in Housing (Continued)

A further factor in council house sufficiency, not to be lost sight of, is that it is feasible to release under-occupied or other council house accommodation for necessitous cases by means of methods other than overbuilding of burdensome subsidised and costly new council houses, such as applying realistic rents to relative affluence, and by so doing making owner-occupation an attractive alternative. There can be no doubt that some families could, and would prefer to, become house owners, but naturally, so long as existing subsidised council house accommodation is available the encouragement to take on financial commitments associated with owner-occupation will never become attractive.

Grouped Aged Persons' Bungalows
Under Supervision of a Warden

The 1962 Eaton Close Scheme of 25 bungalows under supervision of a kindly Warden has proved its value and shown that a nicely grouped scheme of aged persons bungalows, with the services of a good warden, can provide extended happiness and length of life.

As there does not appear to be any ordered NATIONAL SCHEME of DEVELOPMENT for AGED PERSONS, and in knowledge that Leominster embodies a large aged population and the accepted fact that aged persons live happily and longer in their own homes, what better in the year 1968, following the Monkland Road Scheme which caters for ALL CLASSES, than another grouped and nicely planned aged persons' bungalow scheme on land near the town centre, near the Priory Church and The Grange, and particularly whilst LEOMINSTER BOROUGH COUNCIL retains its present status and administrative control.

Improvement of Dwellings - Improvement Areas

Excluding houses already subject to Confirmed Clearance Orders and due to be demolished, and also excluding Grade V houses still to be dealt with under Clearance Order procedure, the number of IMPROVABLE OLDER HOUSES in Leominster which lack amenities and which could still have a reasonable life provided they were improved with the five "STANDARD AMENITIES", namely, a hot water supply, a fixed bath, or shower, a wash-hand basin, a readily accessible water closet, and a proper food store, is probably in the region of 300 houses.

The Council might well be advised to put into operation the preparation of a programme for identifying areas of improvable old houses suitable for comprehensive improvement on an AREA IMPROVEMENT BASIS, the purpose of which would be to secure, say within 5 years, the provision within each old improvable house of the full five standard amenities.

HOUSING (Continued)Post-War Clearance Areas

The following houses resolved by the Local Authority as Clearance Areas are still standing:-

| <u>Area No.</u> | <u>Premises</u> | <u>No. of Houses</u> | <u>Occupied</u> | <u>Unoccupied</u> |
|-----------------|---|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 52 | 11,13,15,17, North Road. | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| 53 | 4, 5, 6, Strangward's Court. | 3 | - | 3 |
| 56 | 51 and 53, Mill Street. | 2 | - | 2 |
| 63 | 2,4,6, Bargates. | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 65 | 1 and 2, Grange Walk, 10, Corn Square. | 3 | - | 3 |
| 68 | 9, 11, 13, Ryelands Road. | 1 | - | 1 |
| 69 | 48, 48a, 50, 52, Bridge Street. | 4 | 4 | - |
| 70 | 15 and 17, Mill Street. | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 71 | 21, 23, 25, Mill Street. | 3 | - | 3 |
| 74 | 4a, 6, 8, 8a, Bridge St. | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 75 | 122 and 124, South St. | 2 | 2 | - |
| 77 | 20, 22, 24, 26, Bridge Street. | 3 | 3 | - |
| 78 | 38, 40, 42, Burgess St. | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 79 | 121, 123, Bargates. | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| 80 | 5,9,11,13, Mill Street. | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| 82 | 90,92,94,96,98, Bridge Street. | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| 83 | 99, 101, 103, 105, 107, Bridge Street. | 5 | 3 | 2 |
| 84 | 1,2,3, Victoria Court. | 3 | - | 3 |
| 85 | 82,84,86, South Street. | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 87 | 69 and 71, Etnam Street and 1,2, West's Court. | 4 | 1 | 3 |
| 88 | 40,42,44, Dishley Street. | 3 | 2 | 1 |
| 90 | 22,24,26,28,30,32, Dishley Street. | 6 | 6 | - |
| 91 | 70,72,74,76, Bridge Street. | 4 | 4 | - |
| 92 | 128,130,132, South St. | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| 93 | 46, 48, 50, 52, 52a, Dishley Street. | 5 | 2 | 3 |
| Sub-total | | 84 | 42 | 42 |

HOUSING (Continued)Pre-War Clearance Areas

The following 13 houses confirmed for clearance in the years 1938 and 1939 are still standing:-

| <u>Area No.</u> | <u>Premises</u> | <u>No. of Houses</u> | <u>Occupied</u> | <u>Unoccupied</u> |
|---|---|----------------------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 27 | 109, Bridge Street. (1939) | 1 | 1 | - |
| 28 | 85,87,89,91,93, Bridge Street and 1, Lowes Court (1939) | 6 | 5 | 1 |
| 36 | 30, Vicarage Street. (1938) | 1 | 1 | - |
| 49 | 1/2 Rose Tree Cottages, Ebnal. (1939) | 1 | 1 | - |
| 49 | 1,2, Bedford Cottages, Ebnal. (1939) | 2 | 2 | - |
| 33 | 1, 3, Bridge Street. (1939) | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Sub-total | | 13 | 11 | 2 |
| TOTAL CLEARANCE AREA HOUSES STANDING AT 31st DECEMBER, 1967: | | 97 | 53 | 44 |

Housing Statistics

(1) Total number of Clearance Area houses demolished:-

| | | |
|---------------|----|------------|
| Pre-War 1939 | .. | 60 |
| Post-War 1945 | .. | 201 |
| | | <u>261</u> |

NOTE: The number of clearance area houses demolished during the years 1956 - 1967 inclusive is 160
Houses demolished during the year 1967 12

(2) Individual unfit houses demolished voluntarily and under Housing Acts 1937 and 1957:

| | | |
|---------------|----|-----------|
| Pre-War 1939 | .. | 16 |
| Post-War 1945 | .. | 68 |
| | | <u>84</u> |

HOUSING (Continued)Housing Statistics (Continued)

NOTE: Individual unfit houses demolished in 1967 .. 4

The number of individual unfit houses cleared or closed during the years 1956 to 1967 is as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|-------|
| Demolished | .. | 53 |
| Closed (or subject to demolition) | .. | 7 |
| | | <hr/> |
| | | 60 |
| | | <hr/> |

Number of New houses completed during the year

(a) Total 63

(b) With State Assistance under Housing Acts:-

| | | |
|--------------------------------|---------|----|
| (1) By Local Authority | | 36 |
| (2) By other bodies or persons | | - |

(c) Without State Assistance:-

(1) By other bodies or persons

| | | |
|-----------------|---------|----|
| (i) Borough | | 11 |
| (ii) Out-Parish | | 16 |

Statistics relating to Council Houses, Flats and Bungalows

The number of completed dwellings at 31st December, 1967, owned by the Council is as follows:-

Built pre 1939 208

Built from 1st April 1945 to 31st December, 1967: 507

| | | |
|--|-------|-----|
| Less Holland Road Pre-fabs. demolished/ closed in 1966: | <hr/> | 487 |
|--|-------|-----|

Conversion of one premise to 6 flats (1958) 6

| | | |
|---|---------|----|
| Old houses acquired and standing at 31st December, 1967 (8 occupied, 4 void) | | 12 |
|---|---------|----|

| | | |
|-------|----|-----------|
| Total | .. | <hr/> 713 |
|-------|----|-----------|

Types and Numbers of Council Dwellings

| | | |
|--|---------|-----|
| (a) Permanent prefabricated Airey Type | | 28 |
| (b) Permanent prefabricated Cornish Unit | | 24 |
| (c) Traditional brick | | 577 |

Bungalows

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Traditional brick (aged persons 1 bedroom type) | .. | 25 |
|---|----|----|

HOUSING (Continued)Types and Numbers of Council Dwellings (Continued)Flats

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Traditional brick | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 41 |
|-------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|

Conversions

| | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|
| Newman House to 6 flats | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 6 |
|-------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|---|

| | | | | | | | |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| <u>Old Houses Acquired</u> | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 12 |
|----------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|

713

The number of Council dwellings constructed and completed for occupation during the year 1967 is 36, namely:

| | |
|-----------------|----|
| Waterworks Lane | 16 |
|-----------------|----|

| | |
|--------------|----|
| Holland Road | 12 |
|--------------|----|

| | |
|----------|---|
| Bargates | 4 |
|----------|---|

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Westfield Walk | 4 |
|----------------|---|

36

OLD HOUSES ACQUIRED BY THE COUNCIL AND STILL STANDING AT 31st DECEMBER, 1967, made up as follows:

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 22, Dishley St. | 1 |
|-----------------|---|

| | |
|---------------|---|
| Library House | 1 |
|---------------|---|

| | |
|---------------|---|
| 97, Etnam St. | 1 |
|---------------|---|

| | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1, Jenkins Buildings | 1 |
|----------------------|---|

| | |
|----------------|---|
| Worcester Road | 2 |
|----------------|---|

| | |
|-----------------|---|
| 2,4,6, Bargates | 3 |
|-----------------|---|

| | |
|---|---|
| 66b and 68 and rear 68 Bridge Street | 3 |
|---|---|

12

Houses in Multiple Occupation

There are no registered common lodging houses in the Leominster district.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|----|----|
| Houses in Multiple Occupation | .. | 10 |
|-------------------------------|----|----|

HOUSING (Continued)Schedule of completed Dwellings etc., Constructed by the Council

| SITES | Built Pre-1939 | Built from 1st April, 1945 to 31st December 1966 | | | Built in 1967 | | |
|--|-------------------|---|----------------|-------|---------------|----------------|-------|
| | | HOUSES | BUNG- ALOWS | FLATS | HOUSES | BUNG- ALOWS | FLATS |
| Caswell Estate | 90 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Worcester Road | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Gateway Lane | 100 | 110 | - | 12 | 8 | - | 4 |
| Westfield and Bargates Estate | - | 185 | - | - | 8 | - | - |
| Cranes Lane | 6 | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Kenwater Close | - | 30 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Lugg Way | - | 8 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Rainbow Street | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hengrave Green | - | 12 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Eaton Close | - | - | 25 | 1 | - | - | - |
| Leofric House | - | - | - | 8 | - | - | - |
| Falconer Place | - | 30 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Hawthorne Place | - | 12 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Newman Close | - | 14 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Ryelands Road | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Waterworks Lane | - | - | - | - | - | - | 16 |
| Total Constructed | 208 | 405 | 25 | 21 | 16 | - | 20 |
| Newman House converted to flats (1958) | - | - | - | 6 | - | - | - |
| "Sunnyside" acquisition and conversion (1964) | - | 2 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Total cons- tructed and converted | 208 | 407 | 25 | 27 | 16 | - | 20 |

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963Table A. and C. - Registrations and General InspectionsPeriod Covered: 1st January, 1967 to 31st December, 1967.

| Class of Premises | Premises registered during the year | Total premises registered at end of year | Premises receiving general inspection during the year | Number of persons employed |
|--|-------------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------|
| (1) | (2) | (3) | (4) | (5) |
| Offices | 3 | 30 | 4 | 181 |
| Retail Shops | 3 | 80 | 17 | 325 |
| Wholesale shops, warehouses | 4 | 5 | 3 | 35 |
| Catering establishments open to the public, canteens | - | 13 | 4 | 69 |
| Fuel Storage Depots | - | - | - | - |
| TOTALS | 10 | 128 | 28 | 610 |
| | | | TOTAL MALES | 245 |
| | | | TOTAL FEMALES | 365 |

TABLE B.

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises .. 35

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949

The Public Abattoir, Sewage Disposal Works, and Refuse Tip received periodic treatments.

Dwellinghouses, farms, business premises and local authority premises:-

Number treated against mice 5

Number treated against rats 49

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

Number on Register (excluding Building Sites) .. 67

Number of Inspections .. 33

Cases in which defects were found .. 3

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956

The adoption of byelaws designed to ensure that all houses erected in future be provided with grates or other appliances capable of burning smokeless fuels or of smokeless operations, was approved by the Council in February, 1957.

The few Leominster industrial plants which discharged blackish smoke into the air from high chimneys ceased shortly after the coming into operation of the Clean Air Act, and therefore, in so far as the powers of the local authority are concerned, the chief cause of air pollution in Leominster is the domestic chimney.

Walking round the Borough during the winter evenings one cannot fail but to contrast those chimneys discharging dirty smoke, and those chimneys free of smoke, and then to reason on the advantages of living in a clean atmosphere clear of smoke and unburnt hydro-carbons from domestic chimneys.

Polluted air can be inconvenient and insidious and give rise to ill health, and so, even in a rural borough, sight should not be lost of the advantages of a clean air policy, and the provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956, and the Byelaws, in relation to present prevailing conditions, and also in relation to the future planned expansion of Leominster.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOODFOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960Number and type of Food Premises

| <u>Type of Premises</u> | <u>Number</u> | <u>Fitted to comply with:</u> | |
|--|---------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| | | <u>Regulation</u> <u>16</u> | <u>Regulation</u> <u>19</u> |
| (a) GROCERS (including sale of fruit, fish, game, vegetables, and pre-packed ice-cream) | 32 | 30 | 31 |
| (b) SWEETS and SUGAR CONFECTIONERY (including sale of pre-packed ice-cream) | 9 | 8 | 8 |
| (c) RESTAURANTS and CATERING ESTABLISHMENTS (including fish and chip fryers, sale of pre-packed ice-cream) | 12 | 9 | 12 |
| (d) LICENSED PREMISES (Hotels, Inns and Clubs) | 27 | 27 | 27 |
| (e) BAKERS and CONFECTIONERS | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| (f) BUTCHERS | 8 | 8 | 8 |
| (g) SCHOOL MEAL CANTEENS | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| (h) POULTERERS | 1 | 1 | 1 |

TOTALS.

22

23

27

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD (Continued)FOOD HYGIENE (GENERAL) REGULATIONS, 1960 (Continued)Number of Food Premises, by TypeRegistered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955

(i) SALE OF PRE-PACKED ICE-CREAM

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|----------------|
| Grocers | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 16 |
| Restaurants and Catering Establishments | .. | | | | | | | 11 |
| Sweets and Sugar Confectionery | .. | .. | .. | | | | | 8 |
| (Including Mobile) | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | <hr/> 35 <hr/> |

(j) PREPARATION OR MANUFACTURE OF SAUSAGES,
POTTED, PRESSED, PICKLED OR PRESERVED FOOD.

| | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|---------------|
| Butchers | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 4 |
| Bakers and Confectioners | .. | .. | .. | .. | | | | 2 |
| Fish Fryers | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | | 2 |
| | | | | | | | | <hr/> 8 <hr/> |

Ice-Cream

There are no ice-cream manufacturing premises in operation in the district. All retail premises have electric continuous freezers and retail pre-packed ice-cream only.

Sampling

Sampling for bacteriological analysis is carried out from time to time.

| | | |
|---|----|----|
| Number of samples falling into Grade 1 (Satisfactory) | .. | 12 |
| Number of samples falling into Grade 2 (Satisfactory) | .. | - |
| Number of samples falling into Grade 3 (Unsatisfactory) | .. | - |

Food Premises - Inspection, Supervision and Comment

Apart from the Poultry Plucking Factory (mainly rough plucking of hens and capons) erected in 1961, there are no food processing factories in the area other than retail shops, bakehouses, restaurants and hotel kitchens.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD (Continued)Food Premises - Inspection, Supervision and Comment (Continued)

Routine inspections are carried out from time to time under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Food Hygiene Regulations, 1960, and byelaws made under the Food and Drugs Act. Contraventions are followed up by communications and reports to the appropriate Committee when found necessary.

Poultry

As there is only one Poultry Processing Premise within the district the number of birds processed or rejected is not included in this general report, but the estimated figures are available. The types of birds processed are - turkeys, hens, broilers and capons (97% rough plucked, and 3% dressed) (estimated only).

Should legislation be introduced, in the future, relating to poultry processing premises, the following points are suggested for coverage:

- (1) Pre-licensing and annual licensing of poultry processing, or packing, premises.
- (2) Arrangements for staining, sterilisation, storage, collection and disposal of rejected or diseased bird carcasses, as, for example the provision at food processing premises of incinerators and the incineration of all diseased or rejected bird carcasses, or alternative some form of control, or licensing, of sundry collectors of rejected or diseased carcasses, the prior staining or sterilisation of the carcasses, and the non-transfer of infected carcasses etc., to non-infected premises such as farms.
- (3) Contamination of plucked carcasses at evisceration or dressing stage, and reference to
 - (a) contaminated hands,
 - (b) contaminated wiping cloths,
 - (c) use of contaminated water,
 - (d) contaminated knives, etc.
 - (e) working surfaces.
- (4) Provision of water jets or sprays.
- (5) Cleansing and disinfection of containers.
- (6) Throat slitting of live birds.

Milk Supply

- (1) Routine inspection of dairies.
- (2) Collection of samples of milk for analysis.
 - (a) Examination for bacterial cleanliness and heat treatment.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD (Continued)Milk Samples Taken

| | | | | | | |
|------------------|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| Pasteurised milk | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 27 |
| Sterilised milk | .. | .. | .. | .. | .. | 2 |

26 of the above samples taken during the year conformed to standards laid down. 3 samples of pasteurised milk from vending machines were not satisfactory.

Brucella Abortus

All milk now retailed is treated milk.

Number of dairies registered under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949 (excluding farm dairies) 2

The Liquid Egg (Pasteurisation) Regulations, 1963

- (1) There are no egg pasteurisation plants in the Council's area.
- (2) Samples of liquid egg submitted to Alpha-Amylase test .. Nil

PUBLIC SWIMMING BATH

- (1) Description: Modern open air swimming bath (unheated).
- (2) Water Supply: Potable fresh water from Borough Main.
Bath emptied and re-filled annually.
- (3) Treatment: By high pressure continuous filtration plant and Chemical treatment (Chlorine and Ammonia gases).
- (4) Water Changes: Water circulated continuously through filter while bath in use. Turnover period - 4 hours.
- (5) Water Samples: 18 bacteriological samples were taken from the bath, all of which were satisfactory.

ABATTOIR

During the year 1965, works of reconstruction, repair and improvement were effected at the Abattoir (built in 1877) to conform to the standards prescribed in the Slaughterhouse (Hygiene) Regulations, 1958 Part II Construction and Part III Equipment, and the standards prescribed in Part II of the Slaughter of Animals (Prevention of Cruelty) Regulations, 1958.

Method of Meat Inspection

In accordance with the Meat Inspection Regulations, 1963/66 in so far as is reasonably practicable.

ABATTOIR (Continued)Ante-mortem and Post-mortem Inspections

Inspection of all carcasses is carried out daily.

Transport and Carrying of Meat

Vehicles of good standard are provided.

METHOD OF DISPOSAL OF CONDEMNED FOOD

- (1) Condemned meat and other material from Abattoir - after green staining - collection by private buyer.
- (2) Other food - incineration or buried.

The undernoted foods were surrendered during the year:

48 tins canned meats.
 423 tins fruit.
 6 tins vegetables.
 3 tins milk.
 5 miscellaneous.

Approximate weight of diseased meat dealt with:

Condemned

| | | |
|-----------------|----|----------|
| Cattle | .. | 1606 lb. |
| Calves | .. | 84 lb. |
| Sheep and Lambs | .. | 321 lb. |
| Pigs | .. | 80 lb. |

Total .. 2091 lb.

There are no licensed slaughterhouses in the Borough. Throughout the year arrangements at the Council's abattoir have been conducted by the Leominster Butcher's Abattoir Company.

CARCASES AND OFFAL INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED IN WHOLE OR IN PART

| | Cattle | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|---|--------|--------|-----------------------|------|
| Number killed | 496 | 56 | 2913 | 871 |
| Number inspected | 496 | 56 | 2913 | 871 |
| <u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u> | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | 1 | 2 | 6 | - |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 83 | - | 33 | 16 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than tuberculosis and cysticerci | 16.93 | 3.57 | 1.34 | 1.83 |
| <u>Tuberculosis only</u> | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned and carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned | - | - | - | - |
| <u>Cysticercosis</u> | | | | |
| Whole carcasses condemned | - | - | - | - |
| Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned | 1 | - | - | - |
| Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration | - | - | - | - |

